

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----013116 230754Z /21

O 221525Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6154
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MAPUTO 1016

EXDIS

LAGOS FOR YOUNG, MOOSE AND PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, MZ
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF CALLAGHAN LETTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL

REF: STATE 197393

1. SUMMARY. UK AMBASSADOR JOHN LEWEN DELIVERED PRIME
MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL THIS
MORNING, I ACCOMPANIED. MACHEL DID NOT EXPRESS ANY
PROBLEM WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED IN
THE CALLAGHAN LETTER AND ELABORATED ON BY UK AMBASSADOR.
MACHEL SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM NYERERE THAT US AND UK
MIGHT BE DIVIDED ON HOW TO HANDLE ZIMBABWEAN ARMED FORCES,
BUT HE SEEMED REASSURED WHEN TEXT OF CALLAGHAN LETTER WAS
READ TO HIM AND BY MY STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD TAKEN
A PERSONAL INTEREST IN FORMULATION OF THE PROPOSAL. JUDGING BY
HIS COMMENTS, MACHEL'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN ARRANGEMENTS
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FOR MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER AND WHO CONTROLS ARMED FORCES.
HE REMARKED THAT CIVIL WAR WOULD ENSUE IF "COLONIALIST," IN
COOPERATION WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA, SEEK
TO RETAIN ANY CONTROL OVER FUTURE ZIMBABWEAN SECURITY FORCES.
MACHEL IS LIKELY TO SEEK SATISFACTION ON CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES
WHEN FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG MEET WITH FRONT-
LINE PRESIDENTS ON AUGUST 27TH. END SUMMARY.

2. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I HAD AN HOUR MEETING WITH MACHEL THIS MORNING. ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT WAS MACHEL'S AIDE LUIS HONWANA. LEWEN OPENED WITH PRESENTATION OF HIS TALKING POINTS. HE NOTED THAT THE UPCOMING MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD AFFORD FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE PROPOSAL AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. FOLLOWING LEWEN'S PRESENTATION I CARRIED OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS, REAFFIRMING OUR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH EFFORT AND EXPRESSING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN FORMULATION OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND HIS HOPE THAT MACHEL WOULD COOPERATE IN PURSUIT OF PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN ZIMBABWE.

3. AFTER LISTENING ATTENTIVELY TO LEWEN'S PRESENTATION, MACHEL OPENED DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE THAT THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UK AND US AS REGARDS FUTURE OF THE ZIMBABWEAN ARMED FORCES, SPECIFICALLY THAT THE UK MIGHT NOT BE AS READY AS US TO DISBAND THE SMITH FORCES. SINCE AT THIS POINT TEXT OF CALLAGHAN'S LETTER HAD NOT BEEN READ TO HIM, HE ASKED HONWANDA TO READ HIM WHAT CALLAGHAN HAD TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT. WHEN HONWANA CAME TO POINT IN LETTER WHERE CALLAGHAN WROTE THAT "IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO LEAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING LAW AND ORDER IN THE HANDS OF THE EXISTING RHODESIAN FORCES," MACHEL SMILED APPROVINGLY, AS HE DID AT REFERENCES

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THAT "FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE THE NEW ARMY OF ZIMBABWE SHOULD BE ONE OF ZIMBABWE'S OWN CHOOSING...(AND) THAT SUCH AN ARMY WOULD BE PREDOMINANTLY BASED ON THE FORCES OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." REFERENCES TO INTRODUCTION OF A UN FORCE ALSO SEEMED TO PLEASE MACHEL. TO HELP DISPEL NOTION THAT US AND UK MIGHT STILL BE DIVIDED ON THIS MATTER, I OBSERVED THAT US AND UK HAD BEEN CONSULTING CLOSELY THROUGHOUT FORMULATION OF PROPOSAL AND THAT THE PROPOSAL, AS WILL BE PRESENTED TO FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS, HAS FULL SUPPORT OF USG AND PRESIDENT CARTER. I ALSO STRESSED THAT ONE OF REASONS FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD ASKED TO MEET WITH THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS WAS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO DISCUSS THE VERY ISSUES OF THE FUTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES. MACHEL SEEMED TO BE REASSURED, AND TOLD HONWANA IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO READ ANY FURTHER IN THE CALLAGHAN LETTER.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 221525Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
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INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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4. MACHEL THEN ASKED ABOUT BISHOP MUZOREWA: WHEY HAD WE BEEN TALKING TO HIM IN LONDON? WHAT WAS HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WHITE SETTLERS AND THE RHODESIAN FORCES? ALTHOUGHT MACHEL DID NOT USE PHRASE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT," THIS APPEARED TO BE WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WHEN PROBING US ABOUT MUZOREWA'S INTENTIONS, BEFORE WE LEFT SUBJECT OF MUZOREWA, MACHEL SAID THAT IF MUZOREWA SHOULD AGREE TO COOPERATED WITH THE "COLONIALIST" FORCES, THERE WOULD BE CIVIL WAR.

5. FINALLY, MACHEL ASKED IF WE COULD TELL HIM ANYTHING ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN IN LONDON. HE INQUIRED, FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE SOUTH AFRICANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN OFFERED ANY INDUCEMENTS TO COOPERATE WITH US ON ZIMBABWE. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NOT HAD THE FULL REPORT OF THE MEETINGS, BUT THAT WE WERE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT NO INDUCEMENTS HAD BEEN OFFERED. IN FACT, BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS WERE EXERTING STRONG CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESSURE ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO STOP SUPPORTING THE SMITH REGIME. I NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS AS MUCH IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERESTS, AS ANYONE ELSE'S, TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ZIMBABWE.

6. COMMENT. MACHEL WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY THROUGHTOUT.

WHEREAS IN PAST, HE HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF PREVIOUS UK-US EFFORTS
AT REACHING A SETTLEMENT, TODAY HE WAS NOT. IN FACT, BOTH
AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I LEFT MEETING WITH IMPRESSION HE NOW REASONABLY
SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING.

7. IT CLEAR MACHEL HAD BEEN IN COMMUNICATION RECENTLY WITH
NYERERE ON SUBJECT OF ANGLO-AMERICAN THINKING ON FUTURE OF
RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES. IF MACHEL IS NOW REASSURED ON MATTER
OF CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES, IT IS PROBABLY BECAUSE NYERERE
HIMSELF HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OF THIS SUBJECT (MACHEL
KNEW ALL ABOUT NYERERE'S WEEKEND PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAR),
RATHER THAN FROM LANGUAGE IN CALLAGHAN LETTER OR LAMBASSADOR LEWEN'S
PRESENTATION. GIVEN MACHEL'S LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN CONTROL
OF THE ARMED FORCES, HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO SEEK TO SATISFY HIMSELF
FULLY ON THIS MATTER AT UPCOMING LUSAKA MEETING.

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
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Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 4
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 197393
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1528613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELIVERY OF CALLAGHAN LETTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL
TAGS: PDEV, PPDC, RH, UK, MZ, (MACHEL, SAMORA), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e6cfa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009